

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 583

STATING THE POLICY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD RELATIVE TO WAIVING OF REPORTS ON  
WASTE DISCHARGE FROM FAMILY DWELLINGS IN AREAS WHERE THE DISPOSAL  
OF SEWAGE IS REGULATED BY THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- I. WHEREAS, Section 13054 California Water Code provides that, "The reporting of a discharge of sewage from family dwellings in any area may be waived by the regional board"; and
- II. WHEREAS, there is need for this Regional Board to express its policy with regard to the waiving of reports on waste discharge from family dwellings within Contra Costa County; and
- III. WHEREAS,
  - A. Contra Costa County has an ordinance requiring that plans for septic tank installations be approved by the County Health Officer before construction of such installations is permitted;
  - B. Two of the 13 cities under the County Health Officer's jurisdiction have agreed that plans for septic tank installations require approval by the County Health Officer and such approval is based on the same ordinances and standards as apply in unincorporated areas, and in the other 11 cities under his jurisdiction this procedure is followed as a matter of practice;
  - C. Those portions of Sanitary Districts lying in unincorporated areas are automatically subject to the same ordinance; and
- IV. WHEREAS, experience of the staff of this Board shows that:
  - A. The use of septic tanks and leaching systems is, with few exceptions, a temporary solution to sewage disposal problems;
  - B. Because of their temporary nature the installation of septic tanks and subsequent replacement with sewers is more expensive than construction of sewers at the outset;
  - C. The maintenance and operation by private individuals or informal organizations of small sewage treatment systems which serve only a small population is variable, and hence such systems do not produce an effluent of reliable quality
    1. The discharge of effluent from such systems into surface waters, intermittent streams, or onto the ground surface causes uncontrolled variations in the effect of such discharges with respect to nuisance, water quality, and public health
    2. The adequate inspection of such discharges entails costs disproportionate to the significance and magnitude of the discharges; now,

V. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Regional Board urges that all responsible legislative and planning bodies in Contra Costa County and the County Health Department:

- A. Require connection to public sewers as a condition of development of any subdivision;
- B. Investigate the feasibility of connection to public sewers prior to approval of any septic tank permits;
- C. Deny septic tank permits where connection to a public sewer is feasible in the opinion of the County Health Officer;
- D. Deny septic tank or other private sewage disposal permits where disposal of effluent into surface waters or onto the ground surface is proposed, unless extraordinary circumstances justify the issuance of such a permit in the opinion of the County Health Officer;

VI. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Regional Board hereby waives the reporting of discharges of sewage from family dwellings in any area where the disposal of sewage is regulated by the Contra Costa County Health Department by means of permits and that this waiver is subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

- A. The sewage is to be disposed of entirely through systems approved by the County Health Department and complying with this Board's Resolution No. 81;
- B. "Family dwelling" for the purpose of this resolution, includes rest room and kitchen facilities serving:
  - 1. Restaurants
  - 2. Service stations
  - 3. Stores
  - 4. Offices
  - 5. Beaches and Parks
  - 6. Trailer camps
  - 7. Motels
  - 8. Apartments
  - 9. Schools
  - 10. Churches;
- C. The sewage does not contain any industrial waste and does not originate at a manufacturing or processing plant site;
- D. That no disposal facilities shall be permitted where the City or District has adopted an ordinance compelling sewer connection and the public sewer is available in accordance with the terms of the ordinance;
- E. That the County Health Officer advise the Regional Board at the earliest possible date of all proposals to use septic tanks in new sub-divisions for the disposal of sewage;
- F. That this waiver does not apply whenever the County Health Officer believes that a Report on Waste Discharge should be filed with the Regional Board;

VII. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this waiver becomes effective upon adoption of this Resolution and that the Regional Board reserves the right to review and amend the waiver at any time.

GRANT BURTON  
Chairman

July 16, 1964

I, John B. Harrison, hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 583, as adopted by the Regional Water Pollution Control Board of Region No. 2 at its regular meeting on July 16, 1964.

JOHN B. HARRISON  
Executive Officer  
REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD NO.2